

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5208

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, PINS, NI

SUBJECT: GOWON BROADCAST ON

POST ENUMERATION CHECK

SUMMARY: GOWON ANNOUNCED IN PUBLIC BROADCAST JULY 23
THAT POST-CENSUS ENUMERATION CHECK WILL BE HELD
AUGUST 2 AND 3. HE STRESSED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS
CHECK -- WHICH WILL "ASSIST IN EVALUATING" PROVISIONAL
CENSUS FIGURES - AND NORMAL POST-CENSUS ENUMERATION
SURVEY WHICH WOULD "VALIDATED" PROVISIONAL FIGURES.
SEMANTIC DISTINCTION FREES SMC
TO SEEK POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE CENSUS RESULTS EVEN
IF CHECK CONFIRMS PROVISIONAL FIGURES. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JULY 23, GENERAL GOWON ANNOUNCED IN PUBLIC
BROADCAST THAT NIGERIAN POST-CENSUS ENUMERATION CHECK
WILL TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 2 AND 3. ENUMERATORS WILL
COVER 6000 (APPROXIMATELY 5 PER CENT) OF ENUMERATION DISTRICTS
DRAWN UP FOR NOVEMBER CENSUS, AND DISTRICTS WILL BE
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DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT FEDERATION. PROCEDURES OF

CHECK WILL BE SIMILAR TO THOSE USED DURING CENSUS, EXCEPT: A) ONLY HOUSEHOLDS WILL BE COUNTED; B) ONLY FIVE QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED, INCLUDING ONE ASCERTAINING WHETHER PERSON INTERVIEWED HAD BEEN COUNTED IN NOVEMBER; C) ENUMERATION TEAM WILL INCLUDE TWO (RATHER THAN ONE) CIVILIANS AND ONE UNIFORMED SOLDIER; AND D) ONE OF TWO CIVILIAN ENUMERATORS WILL BE FROM OUT-OF-STATE.

2. POST-ENUMERATION CHECK, ACCORDING TO GOWON, COMES UNDER AUTHORITY OF NATIONAL CENSUS DATA REVIEW COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL CENSUS BOARD. COMMITTEE, HE REMINDED LISTENERS, WAS CREATED EARLIER IN YEAR UNDER SUPERVISION TWO SMC MEMBERS TO REVIEW PROVISIONAL FIGURES AND ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES NECESSARY TO ARRIVE AT FINAL AND RELIABLE CENSUS RESULTS. (COMMENT: MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE IS UNKNOWN, BUT ONE SMC SUPERVISOR IS ESC ADMINISTRATOR ASIKA.)

3. GOWON STRESSED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FORTHCOMING POST-ENUMERATION CHECK AND MORE NORMALLY USED POST ENUMERATION SURVEY. SURVEY, HE SAID, IS GENERALLY HELD CONCURRENTLY WITH OR JUST AFTER FULL CENSUS EXERCISE, AND IS USED TO DETERMINE AND VALIDATE RESULTS OF POPULATION CENSUS. NO SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED AFTER NIGERIAN CENSUS, HE WENT ON, AND IT WAS NOW TOO LATE TO HOLD ONE. POST-ENUMERATION CHECK ON OTHER HAND, HE DECLARED " WILL NOT AND CANNOT PROVIDE DIRECT BASIS FOR VALIDATION OF PROVISIONAL FIGURES." INSTEAD, HE SAID, TOGETHER WITH OTHER (UNEXPLAINED) CRITERIA, IT CAN ESTABLISH NORM FOR EVALUATING INTERIM FIGURES.

4. MOST EDITORIAL REACTION SO FAR HAS BEEN FAVORABLE, THOUGH SKETCH QUESTIONED DISTINCTION BETWEEN "VALIDATION" OF PROVISIONAL FIGURES BY POST-ENUMERATION SURVEY AND "EVALUATION" BY POST-CENSUS CHECK. TRIBUNE, HOWEVER, CONTINUED DEMAND REJECTION OF ENTIRE 1973 CENSUS (LAGOS 6415) ON GROUNDS THAT, AS CHECK CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO RESULT IN SERIOUS CHANGE IN PROVISIONAL FIGURES, FEDERATION CANNOT SURVIVE "FALSE" CENSUS RESULTS WHICH GIVE ONE SECTION OF COUNTRY SIZABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"FALSE" MAJORITY.

5. COMMENT: USE OF OUT-OF-STATE-ENUMERATORS WILL INVOLVE MAINLY (THOUGH NOT ENTIRELY) TRANSFER OF CENSUS TAKERS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH. THUS THEIR UTILIZATION IS OBVIOUS ATTEMPT BY FMG TO CONCILIATE YORUBAS AND CONVINCE THEM OF HONESTY OF CENSUS EXERCISE. BASICALLY, HOWEVER, YORUBAS ARE NOT INTERESTED IN

ACCURACY, BUT RATHER IN ACHEIVING CENSUS RESULTS THAT WILL RESTORE PREVIOUS NORTH/SOUTH POPULATION BALANCE. ANY OTHER FINAL FIGURES WILL BE CONSIDERED IPSO FACTO INACCURATE AND DISHONEST REGARDLESS OF FMG PRECAUTIONS.

6. SMC CERTAINLY REALIZES THIS FACT, AND SO GOWON'S DISTINCTION BETWEEN POST-ENUMERATION SURVEY AND POST-ENUMERATION CHECK IS MORE THAN SEMANTIC EXERCISE. BY STRESSING LIMITED VALIDITY OF CHECK AS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL CRITERIA FOR ARRIVING AT FINAL TOTALS, GOWON LEFT SMC FREE TO SEEK POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE CENSUS RESULTS EVEN IF CHECK CONFIRMS PROVISIONAL FIGURES.
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